

# JTA daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Inc. 660 First Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016

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Vol. XXXVIII - Fifty-Fourth Year

Friday, February 19, 1971

No. 34

## Cabinet Continues Study Of Latest Egyptian Note; Report Note Not Radically New

JERUSALEM, Feb. 18 (JTA)--The Cabinet said today that it will continue to study the latest Egyptian note, conveyed to Israel's United Nations Ambassador Yosef Tekoah in New York last night by UN mediator Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring. The latest development in the Jarring talks occupied the Cabinet for most of its lengthy session today which was originally called to dispose of other day-to-day matters that had been postponed from last Sunday's regular session. A government communique issued after the meeting said only that Foreign Minister Abba Eban had reported on the latest developments in the Jarring talks and that the discussion would continue at the next Cabinet meeting. The government maintained absolute secrecy on the contents of the latest Egyptian note. Political circles here said it contained nothing revolutionary which demanded a dramatic move by Israel. They indicated however that the government was closely studying the document to determine whether it contained a reply to Israel's basic question, submitted to Cairo through Jarring two weeks ago, namely, whether Egypt is prepared to conclude a permanent peace with Israel embodied in a signed, contractual agreement. Political sources said that Egyptian statements needed very careful study because they usually contained words that seemed conciliatory but in fact conveyed nothing basically new in Egyptian policy.

## Land On Which Jewish Cemetery Is Located Being Expropriated By Algerians

PARIS, Feb. 18 (JTA)--Algerian authorities have started the expropriation of land on which the Jewish cemetery in Oran is located, it was learned here today. The Jewish consistory in Oran said that about 2500 bodies would have to be exhumed and re-buried elsewhere.

## Six Soviet Jews Wish Conference Success; Three Others To Hold Counter-Meeting

BRUSSELS, Feb. 18 (JTA)--The Soviet Union is sending three prominent Russian Jews to Brussels to participate in a mass meeting Monday night intended to counteract the world conference on Soviet Jewry which opens here Tuesday. At the same time, the conference office here received cables from Soviet Jews in Moscow and Oriel wishing it success and "fruitful results." A spokesman for the conference replied today to an attack on it by Tass, the official Soviet news agency. He said that contrary to Tass' allegations, the conference was in no way an anti-Soviet event and was intended only to focus world attention on the position of Jews in the USSR and to secure for them the same rights enjoyed by other ethnic minorities in the Soviet Union. The pro-Moscow counter-meeting to be held here Monday is being organized by the Belgian-Soviet Friendship Society. The speakers will include Col. Gen. David Dragunsky, the highest ranking Jewish officer in the Russian Army; Vladimir Peller, a Jewish member of the Supreme Soviet; and Samuel Ziv, also a Jew, the chairman of the Soviet Bar Association. A spokesman for the meeting said the Russian visitors would answer questions. He also said that a film would be shown titled, "We Were Born Here."

The secretariat preparing for the world conference on Soviet Jewry announced today that it had received a cable of good wishes signed by six Moscow Jews: Meir Seifond, Alexander Balabanov, Lev Freidin, Jacob Roninson, Joseph Kerler and Karl Malkir. A second cable wishing the conference "success and unity" came from Karl and Raya Frusin of Oriel, the conference reported. A conference spokesman said that Tass erred when it described the forthcoming gathering as an "anti-Soviet provocation." He said it was not directed against the Soviet Union but would demonstrate the solidarity of the Jewish people with the three million Jews in Russia. "The world conference of Jewish communities on Soviet Jewry is dedicated to human rights; it is not an anti-Soviet move and it is not part of the cold war," the spokesman said. (It was announced in London today that the chairman of the British Labor Party, Ian Mikardo, has accepted an invitation to attend the Brussels conference. He said that if he were prevented by parliamentary duties from going to Brussels he would send the conference a message outlining his position on Soviet Jewry.)

## Thant's Report On Jerusalem Housing Plan Expected To Be Critical; Big Four Meet

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Feb. 18 (JTA)--Secretary General Thant will submit a report to the Security Council tomorrow in which he is expected to criticize Israel's intentions of building new housing in East Jerusalem for Jews so as to maintain the city's Jewish majority. A UN spokesman declined to discuss in advance the contents of the report, but said that it would deal with "recent developments" in connection with Israeli operations in captured Arab territories and that it was based on Thant's "reporting responsibilities" under five UN resolutions. One approved by the Assembly a month after the Six-Day War, expressed "deep concern" at Israel's "measures...to change the status of the city (Jerusalem)" and called on Israel "to rescind all measures already taken and to desist forthwith from taking any action which would alter the status of Jerusalem." A second resolution, issued 10 days later, "deplored" Israel's "failure to implement" the earlier one and reaffirmed the language of that document. A Council Resolution of May 21, 1968, noted the two Assembly measures, "deplored" Israel's "failure" to comply with them, and "urgently" called on Israel to adhere to them.

Thirteen months later, on July 3, 1969, the Council reiterated its stand and added that it "censures in the strongest terms all measures taken to change the status of the city of Jerusalem." Two and a half months later, on Sept. 15, the Council stated that "the execrable act of desecration and profanation of the Holy Al Akse Mosque (committed "under the military occupation of Israel") emphasizes the immediate necessity of Israel desisting from acting in violation of the aforesaid resolutions..." (The perpetrator of the mosque vandalism was an Australian who went on trial and was subsequently committed to a mental asylum.) In a related development, Jordanian Ambassador Muhammad H. el-Farra has

complained to the Secretary General that "the Israeli authorities have bulldozed parts of the premises of Government House, the headquarters of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, situated in No-man's Land in Jerusalem." Dr. Farra asked that Thant report on "this new Israeli violation" of Council Resolutions 252 and 267 "as urgently as possible." In a reaction to the Jordanian charge, Israeli Ambassador Yosef Tekoah advised Thant today that "The United Nations headquarters in Jerusalem has in no way been affected by development activities now being undertaken in the city to meet urgent housing needs of the population."

Meanwhile, the ambassadors of the Big Four--the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and France--were to meet again this afternoon, under the hostship of the U.S., to continue their discussions on what the State Department has described as U.S. proposals for "preliminary supplemental guarantees" of a Middle East accord. It is understood that the envoys made a start at last week's meeting toward identifying the problems involved. One source close to the deliberations called it a "workmanlike meeting with absolutely no polemics and some commonality of views." A Western big power diplomat observed that whatever the "guarantee" ultimately arrived at, "it must in no sense be a substitute for a settlement, but a necessary supplement to it." He added that if Israel's next statement to intermediary Gunnar V. Jarring matched in tone the most recent Egyptian letter, "that would be real progress." Concurrently, a UN spokesman said Secretary General Thant was "gratified with the constructive trend of the discussions" by the Big Four on peace guarantees. He was reminded that on Jan. 18 Thant contended that "active participation" by the U.S. and the USSR in a Mideast force would "create more problems" than it would solve. But the spokesman declined to comment on whether the Secretary General's two statements were inconsistent.

#### Town Planning Committee Unanimously Approves Government Master Plan For Housing

JERUSALEM, Feb. 18 (JTA)--The Jerusalem Town Planning Committee headed by Mayor Teddy Kolek last night unanimously approved the government's Master Plan for Jerusalem which it had vigorously opposed on architectural grounds only a few days ago. The move was seen here as mainly a gesture of defiance and an expression of unity in face of the unexpected American criticism of the plan on political grounds earlier this week. Controversy still surrounds the aesthetics of the Housing Ministry's project which calls for the creation of three satellite cities around Jerusalem containing 35,000 housing units for 122,000 people. There is also a serious economic problem of employment for the new settlers inasmuch as Jerusalem is not a center of commerce or industry. The Planning Committee's action last night will have to be approved by the entire City Council when it meets in plenary session next Sunday and will then have to get the approval of the District Planning Authority. Architects and students of architecture continued to demonstrate against the project yesterday claiming that the planned multi-family dwellings would destroy the unique character of Jerusalem. They carried slogans reading, "CORRUPTION AND DESTRUCTION IN THE NAME OF A HOLY CITY."

The project's political objective is to assure that united Jerusalem will have a permanent Jewish majority and will remain under Israeli control. The three satellite cities are to be built on hillsides surrounding the city. None will be located in East Jerusalem, the predominantly Arab territory occupied by Israel in the Six-Day War. But their location would make it virtually impossible to divide Jerusalem in the future into Jewish and Arab sectors. The United States has expressed sharp displeasure over the plan. State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey said this week, "We feel that unilateral actions that tend to be regarded as changing the status of the city--we would find that unacceptable." The American statement surprised and angered Israelis who are hypersensitive about the status of Jerusalem and regard it as a non-negotiable item on the agenda of peace talks with the Arabs. As a result of the news from Washington, many opponents of the Housing Ministry's project rallied to its support. Mayor Kolek, who was one of its severest critics on aesthetic grounds, declared in a television interview Tuesday that Israel had "a right that cannot be shaken" in carrying out the plan.

#### Nixon: Israel, Egypt 'Forthcoming' On Jarring Plan; Encouraged By Developments

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18 (JTA)--President Nixon said yesterday that he thought both Egypt and Israel had been "forthcoming" in response to United Nations mediator Gunnar V. Jarring's latest peace moves but indicated that of the two parties, Egypt was somewhat the more "forthcoming." Nixon addressed himself briefly to the Middle East situation near the end of an impromptu White House press conference that was devoted mainly to the Indo-China war. He insisted that the United States will not put pressure on Israel or on any of the Arab states to get them to accept any proposals. "For the United States publicly to move in and indicate what we think ought to be done while these delicate negotiations go on would not help," Nixon said. He added that he was "encouraged by the developments that have occurred so far."

The President said he had "hopes that when the present cease-fire expires that it will be extended," adding, "I will say that neither side will gain anything by starting the fighting again. It is a war in which either side will be a loser." Nixon was asked if he thought Israel was "balking" on the Jarring proposals and if the U.S. would use its "power of persuasion to get them to accept something along that line." Nixon replied, "I don't think it would be helpful...to speculate here that we would use powers of persuasion with Israel or, for that matter, with Egypt or Jordan, on the Middle East." He said, "Egypt has been more forthcoming than we had expected and I believe that Israel has been somewhat more forthcoming." He termed the Middle East a "difficult area" and observed that "there are going to be day-to-day blasts by one side or the other or concessions by one side or the other before an eventual settlement is reached."

#### Two Injured By Hand Grenade, One Killed By Mine; Terrorist Given 10 Years

TEL AVIV, Feb. 18 (JTA)--An Israeli civilian and a resident of Sajaryah camp in the Gaza Strip were wounded this morning from the explosion of a hand grenade thrown at a truck about to transport workers to their jobs. In another incident, Amir Avni, 22, a member of Kibbutz Mirim, was killed this morning when the tractor he was driving in the kibbutz fields hit a mine planted by terrorists infiltrating from

the nearby Gaza Strip. Meanwhile, the body of an Arab terrorist sought by Israeli police was discovered today near Beth Layhiya in the Strip. The terrorist was known to Israeli police as a commander of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine underground. Israeli authorities are investigating the circumstances of his death. In another incident, an Arab terrorist who called himself "Adolph Hitler" was sentenced yesterday to 10 years imprisonment after being found guilty by a military tribunal on three counts: possession of weapons; membership in the Palestine Liberation Front; and attacking an Israeli army vehicle on the main road in the Gaza Strip in October, 1969. The terrorist's real name, military officials disclosed, is Abdel Rahman El Smiri, 23, of Khan Yunis in the Strip. The prosecutor told the court that the defendant chose his name when he joined the underground and that his name indicated the Arab's attitude toward Jews.

### JNF Official Says Plan To Sell State-Owned, JNF Land Will Encourage Speculation

JERUSALEM, Feb. 18 (JTA)--The Jewish National Fund is embroiled in a controversy with the Israel government over the latter's plan to make State-owned and JNF lands available for sale. Herman L. Weisman, president of the JNF of America, claimed at a news conference here yesterday that the government's proposal amounted to a "breach of trust" and was vigorously opposed by the JNF. The JNF, the land acquisition and reclamation agency of the World Zionist Movement, was founded 70 years ago and ranks second only to the government as the largest landholder in Israel. The JNF operates on the principle that the land of Israel is the "property of the Jewish people" and can never be sold. Occupants of JNF land hold leases which must be renewed every 49 years. A 1960 act by the Knesset applied the same non-saleable principle to State-owned land. But the government is now trying to have the act rescinded. The matter has been under discussion in the Land Administration Authority, a joint government-JNF body on which the government has seven representatives, including the chairman, Minister of Agriculture Chaim Gvati, and the JNF six. The Authority can alter the land-holding principle by simple majority vote. Weisman claimed that converting the land from leasehold to freehold would encourage land speculation and profiteering. He said the sale of the land would not bring in the large sums of money originally anticipated by the government planners.

### Goldberg: No Imposed Settlement in Mideast; Histadrut Raises \$1.3 Million

MIAMI BEACH, Feb. 18 (JTA)--Arthur J. Goldberg, former Supreme Court Justice and former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, declared last night that Security Council Resolution 242 was "intended to permit negotiated territorial adjustments" in the Middle East and not lead to imposed border settlements on the nations in the area. Addressing the closing meeting of the three-day sixth annual mid-winter conference of the Israel Histadrut Foundation, which raised \$1.3 million in commitments and endowments during the conference, Goldberg said it was not Israeli "inflexibility" that was responsible for the continuing tension in the Mideast and enumerated numerous concessions made by Israel in order to make possible the beginning of the Jarring peace talks. He told the 1,000 delegates from the U.S., Canada, Latin America and Israel that the meaning of Resolution 242 is "thwarted in Cairo, Moscow and Amman. The resolution was not intended to perpetuate the situation that led to three tragic wars in 20 years."

At a press conference which preceded the dinner, Goldberg asked to comment on the Jarring talks, replied: "I have never yet learned of a final peace treaty being achieved when the two participants do not sit down face to face." Goldberg was presented with the "\$20 Million Award of the Israel Histadrut Foundation," symbolizing the fact that the Foundation had achieved a cumulative total of \$20,023,000 in deferred grants. At an earlier session, Senator Mike Gravel, Democrat of Alaska, told the delegates "Israel should not give up an ounce of ground until there is a permanent peace settlement." He also said "I as a Christian wish to see the continued administration of an undivided city of Jerusalem by the State of Israel." Dr. Leon Kronish of Miami Beach, national chairman of the board of the Israel Histadrut Foundation and rabbi of Congregation Beth Shalom here, announced that the board of directors had undertaken to raise \$30 million in deferred giving during the next four years in addition to the annual regular Histadrut campaigns. Dr. Sol Stein of New York, Foundation executive vice-president, announced the launching of a \$2.5 million issue of Histadrut Annuity Trust.

### JDL Official Says Man Charged With Supplying Guns To JDL Is Not Known To Group

NEW YORK, Feb. 18 (JTA)--The Jewish Defense League denied today that a Philadelphian arrested here Tuesday night for supplying weapons to two JDL hijackers was connected with that organization. JDL executive director, Lawrence Fine, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he had "no knowledge" of the man, Gilbert Laurie, 26, who was seized by Treasury Department officers at Kennedy International Airport as he was boarding an Israeli-bound El Al jet. At an arraignment yesterday in Brooklyn, Laurie was charged with supplying arms to Avrum and Nancy Hershkovits, JDL members arrested last September for allegedly conspiring to hijack a London-to-Cairo plane of United Arab Airlines. The couple were charged with carrying four loaded guns and a live grenade. They pleaded guilty last month to having falsified their passports, and are expected to be sentenced later this month. Federal authorities charged yesterday in court that a raid on a JDL headquarters in Brooklyn last October had uncovered "a number of guns" that were traced to a Virginia dealer allegedly linked with Laurie. Fine insisted to the JTA today that his organization does not advocate use of guns. He said he considered the alleged link between Laurie and the JDL to be a "dead issue." Laurie was held in \$50,000 bail pending a preliminary hearing tomorrow. If convicted he could receive up to 5 years in prison and a \$5,000 penalty.

### JWV To Campaign Against Japanese Firms Cooperating With Arab Boycott Against Israel

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18 (JTA)--The Jewish War Veterans has announced that it will conduct an educational campaign against several Japanese enterprises for cooperating with the Arab boycott of Israel. JWV National Commander Albert Schlossberg said in a memorandum to the organization's posts that the campaign is directed against the purchase of Toyota and Datsun cars and patronage of Japan Air Lines.

